



# Participatory Decision-Making



# **Participatory Decision-Making**

**You are the facilitator in town**

**Emergency Manager is contracting with you to facilitate the HIRV process**

**He has contacted you one month ahead of the first planned meeting**



## **Participatory Decision-Making**

**The town of Ambrosia is a small town of 4,600 people. The primary industry is a mill just outside of the town boundaries; with tourism in the summer (hiking and fishing) and winter (cross-country skiing). There are some farms.**

**There is a river through the town, a major highway with exits into town, and a railway running alongside the highway and part of the river.**



## Participatory Decision-Making

Recently several nearby communities were seriously threatened by wildland interface fires. That's why the HIRV committee was established. Past disasters have involved flooding, a school bus accident (many years ago) at the rail crossing, a fire at the mill, and an avalanche (two persons were killed - both tourists).

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**There is an elected council, one elementary school, a medical clinic, a few motels, one hotel (and pub), several grocery stores, several restaurants, and retail outlets.**



## **Participatory Decision-Making**

**There is a fire hall (volunteer fire fighters with a paid Fire Chief), an RCMP office, and an ambulance station located in the fire hall.**

**There is an Indian Reserve on the outskirts of town.**

**Life is okay in town, several retired people have moved out from the bigger cities to enjoy the more rural approach. There is a local weekly newspaper, the “Ambrosia Times.”**



## **Participatory Decision-Making**

**The Emergency Manager informs you that after a recruitment process, which involved advertising in the community, the HIRV Committee has been formed.**

**The following persons will be members of the HIRV Committee:**



## **Participatory Decision-Making**

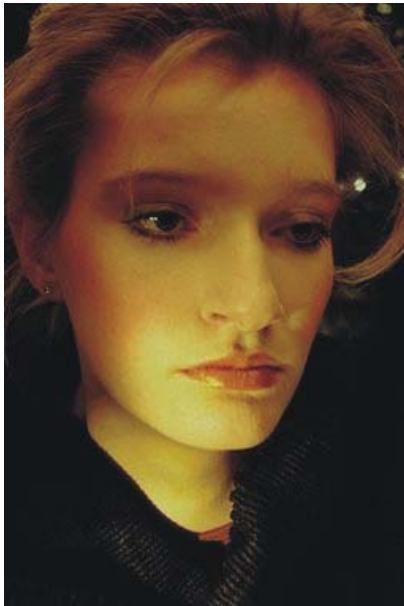


**Joe is the part-time Emergency Manager and part-time Workers Compensation Board Inspector. He has been in town for about 6 years and is an engineer by training.**

**The HIRV Committee is his responsibility.**



## Participatory Decision-Making



**Cathy is one of the elected members of City Council. She has been in town for 5 years and is also the school vice-principal. She is well regarded, but is a no-nonsense type of person.**



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Greg is one of those who retired from his high-powered CEO job in the big city for the quiet life. He runs a hobby farm on the outskirts, although his “farmhouse” is very upscale. He is President of the Chamber of Commerce and a Rotary Member.



## Participatory Decision-Making



**Barry is an RCMP constable who has been in Ambrosia for only 2 years. He is well-liked by the community and gets along well with the teens in particular.**



## Participatory Decision-Making



**Janet is a stay-at-home mom, whose husband works at the mill. She is looking forward to getting out the house and contributing to her community. Previously she worked as a bookkeeper for the hotel.**

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**Sue is the full-time nurse at the Medical Clinic. She has been in Ambrosia for 15 years and knows everyone in town. She is respected by all, but quite outspoken.**



## **Participatory Decision-Making**



**Georgina is the first female firefighter in Ambrosia. She is young, energetic, and works at the plant. Most of the time she can be found at the firehall.**



## Participatory Decision-Making



**How could you have a committee without Herb? The long-time resident/farmer, Herb always has a word to say about something - he is the editor of the Ambrosia Times. Herb is a member of the Rotary Club.**



## **Participatory Decision-Making**



**Dennis lives on the Indian Reserve and is a well-known wood carver. Most of his art is sold out of town, but one of the local stores sells his work as well - mostly in the summer.**



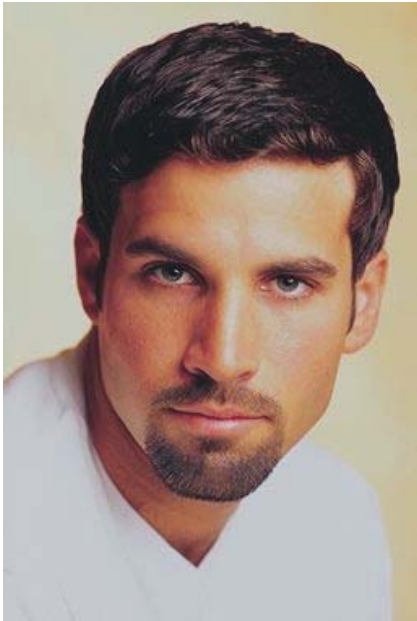
## Participatory Decision-Making



**Rather quiet and shy, it was a surprise when Sheila applied to be on the Committee. Since graduating from high school she has worked for the local pharmacist. She feels working on this committee will expand her horizons.**



## Participatory Decision-Making



**John manages the local bar and grill. Things get pretty rowdy there sometimes and it is not that unusual to have a fight on Saturday night.**

**John thought that by joining the HIRV Committee it might improve his reputation in town.**



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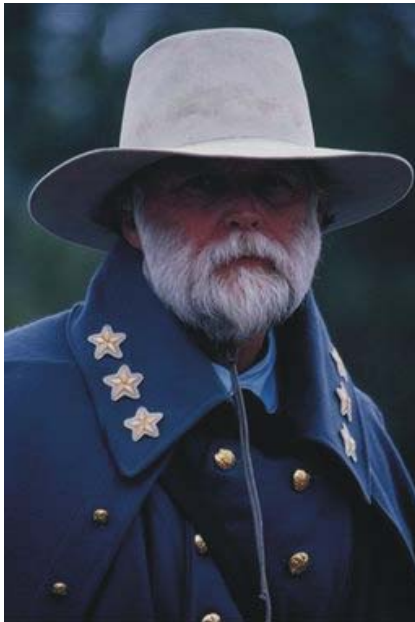


**Kim is here to make money to fund her next two years of university. She works at the mill.**

**She is studying environmental management and is an avid member of Greenpeace and a vegetarian.**



## Participatory Decision-Making



**Kirk has been in town for most of his life. He took over the hotel from his father and has been running it ever since.**

**He doesn't put up with much but is known to be fair man.**



## **Participatory Decision-Making**



**Merrie is the local volunteer - she volunteers for everything. She doesn't work any longer but helps out with every service club in town (e.g., Red Cross, Rotary, Church). If someone is in trouble, Merrie is the first person they call.**

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**Loki has only been in town for 6 months. Her husband came to work in the mill. She has two children at home and has found it tough to fit in.**

**Her hopes are that she will make some friends and get to know people by sitting on the HIRV Committee.**



## Anticipating Problems

**So there you are, fifteen members of the HIRV Committee will be coming to the first meeting -- and you are the facilitator!**

**What potential difficulties can you foresee in facilitating this group?**

# Setting the Agenda



Photo courtesy of FEMA

**Okay, so now you need to set the agenda for the first day.**

**How will you approach this?**

**With what you know about the HIRV process, you are in a good position to offer the Emergency Manager some great advice on how to structure his agenda.**

**Develop (in point form) an outline of the Agenda for the first meeting.**

# Keeping Track

**So how are you going to communicate with the HIRV Committee and ensure that decisions and questions are addressed and acknowledged?**



# Keeping Track

**Illustrate how you would put the Agenda you developed on a flip chart.**





Photo courtesy of FEMA

## Setting Priorities

**Things are going well you think, the HIRV Committee has gone through the comprehensive list of hazards. And are now ready to begin the Risk Analysis.**



Photo courtesy of FEMA

## Setting Priorities

As well some want to do the risk/vulnerability/impact analysis for one hazard all the way through - while others want to complete the risk analysis for all of the hazards first.

**The problem is where to start? - which hazard should they do first?**



## **Presentations**

**So the HIRV Committee has set their priorities and now they want to find out more about a particular hazard - the hazardous materials that are travelling to and from the mill.**

**The Emergency Manager advises that he has one of the scientists from the mill coming to speak at the next meeting.**



# **Presentations**

**You suspect that the scientist may not have a lot of experience talking to laypersons.**

**You contact him to offer some advice regarding his presentation. What would you say to him?**



## **Raising Difficult Issues**

**You are in the Vulnerability Analysis stage. You suspect that some of the people-based vulnerabilities (e.g., poverty, age) are not getting addressed. Some of the men and single Committee members are not appreciating how others may respond.**

**What could you do about that? Itemize the strategy you would follow to address your concerns.**

# Can We Really Make This Work?



Photo courtesy of FEM

**Everyone gets to that stage - you are almost there - or are you?**

**How do you know you have completed the tasks and done a good job?**



## Striving for Support

**Now it is time to take the findings to the community. A lot of work has taken place. The use of the SPR model has decreased some of the concerns but there are still some people on the committee who feel more should be done.**

**Should you recommend taking it to the community now?**



## Striving for Support

**Well done! You have done a great job facilitating the HIRV Committee - the recommendations were well received and the Mitigation Committee is already deep into the process of setting priorities to discuss at the next Council Meeting.**